

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3 and 11-14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 1 and 4-10 are pending in the present application.

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment presents no new issues or new matter and places this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

The Office acknowledges that an information disclosure statement was received on December 6, 2001, but it has been misplaced. As requested by the Examiner, Applicants enclose a copy of the previously-submitted information disclosure statement.

II. The Rejection of Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable in view of Baeck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,837,010). Specifically, the Office states

[Baeck et al.] does teach [the detergent composition] specifically prevents redeposition of removed soils in solution from reattaching to the fabric... There is a reasonable expectation of success that the mixture of the reference would prevent back staining as it prevents the depositing of dyes and dirt.

It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the [Baeck et al.] method ... to a process for stone washing a fabric to prevent back staining as the the redepositing of the dye or soil are not desired.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is drawn to the use of cutinases in methods for reducing the backstaining of a fabric or textile during stonewashing. There is no suggestion whatsoever in Baeck et al. that a cutinase can reduce the backstaining of a dye on a fabric or textile during stonewashing. The chemical composition of dyes and soils is different. Therefore, simply because lipases are useful for preventing redeposition of soils during detergent washing, would not suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art that lipases can also reduce backstaining during stone washing of denim fabric or textiles.

Moreover, Baeck et al. reference focuses (as also recited in the granted claim 1) on improving the whiteness maintenance which has especially negative impact on white garments

(see, .g., column 2, lines 64-66). In contrast, the methods of the present invention concern dyed denim fabric or textile.

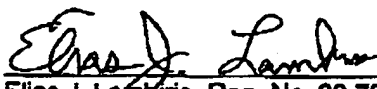
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the claims overcome this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,

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